

Please amend claims 45-49, 52-56, 59, 60, 62 and 63 as follows:

45. (Amended) The object extraction apparatus according to claim 43, wherein said extraction means identifies and extracts the object portion in said object image by a threshold process for information of each said pixel consolidated each for said region.

46. (Amended) The object extraction apparatus according to claims 43, wherein said information of each pixel in said object image is difference information obtained by a difference process between a background image obtained by shooting only a background of said object of interest and said object image.

47. (Amended) The object extraction apparatus according to claim 43, wherein said extraction means comprises

difference processing means for carrying out a difference process between a background image obtained by shooting only a background of said object of interest and said object image;

mean value obtaining means for obtaining a mean value of absolute values of difference obtained by said difference process in said each region, and

threshold value processing means for comparing said mean value of absolute values of difference in said region with a predetermined value to extract a region having said mean value of at least said predetermined value as the object portion.

48. (Amended) The object extraction apparatus according to claim 43, wherein said extraction means comprises

mean value calculating means for calculating a mean value of pixels in each region of said object image,

difference processing means for carrying out a difference process between a mean value of pixels in each region of said object image and a mean value of pixels in a region of said background image corresponding to said region of said object image, and

threshold value processing means for comparing an absolute value of difference obtained by said difference processing means with a predetermined value to extract a region having said absolute value of difference of at least said predetermined value as the object portion.

49. (Amended) The object extraction apparatus according to claim 43, wherein said information of each pixel in said object image is depth information.

52. (Amended) The object extraction method according to claim 50, wherein said extraction step identifies and extracts the object portion in said object image by a threshold process for information of each said pixel consolidated each for said region.

53. (Amended) The object extraction method according to claim 50, wherein said information of said each pixel in said object image is difference information obtained by a difference

process between a background image obtained by shooting only a background of said object of interest and said object image.

54. (Amended) The object extraction method according to claim 50, wherein said extraction step comprises

a difference processing step of carrying out a difference process between a background image obtained by shooting only a background of said object of interest and said object image,

a mean value obtaining step of obtaining a mean value of absolute values of difference obtained by said difference process in said each region, and

a threshold value processing step of comparing said mean value of absolute values of difference in said region with a predetermined value to extract a region having said mean value of at least said predetermined value as the object portion.

55. (Amended) The object extraction method according to claim 50, wherein said extraction step comprises

a mean value calculating step of calculating a mean value of pixels in each region of said object image,

a difference processing step of carrying out a difference process between a mean value of pixels in each region of said object image and a mean value of pixels in a region of said background image corresponding to said region of said object image, and

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cont.

a threshold value processing step of comparing an absolute value of difference obtained by said difference processing with a predetermined value to extract a region having said absolute value of difference of at least said predetermined value as the object portion.

56. (Amended) The object extraction method according to claim 50, wherein said information of each pixel in said object image is depth information.

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59. (Amended) The medium storing the object extraction program according to claim 57, wherein said extraction step identifies and extracts the object portion in said object image by a threshold value process for information of said each pixel consolidated each for said region.

60. (Amended) The medium storing the object extraction program according to claim 57, wherein said information of each pixel in said object image is difference information obtained by a difference process between a background image obtained by shooting only a background of said object of interest and said object image.

62. (Amended) The medium storing the object extraction program according to claim 57, wherein said extraction step comprises

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a mean value calculating step of calculating a mean value of pixels in each region of said object image,

a difference processing step of carrying out a difference process between a mean